

CLAIMS

1. A method of flocculating a micro-organism and/or removal of high molecular weight contaminants from a fermentation broth, comprising adding a divalent salt to the fermentation
5 broth comprising a glycosaminoglycan of interest after which the micro-organism and/or the high molecular weight contaminants are removed, wherein said micro-organism produces the glycosaminoglycan of interest.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the micro-organism is a prokaryote or a
10 eukaryote.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the prokaryote is a *Bacillus* cell.
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycosaminoglycan is hyaluronic acid.
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5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the glycosaminoglycan has a molecular weight of from 700 Daltons to 15,000,000 Daltons.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the divalent salt is a calcium salt and/or a
20 magnesium salt.
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the divalent salt is added at a concentration of 0.1-25 g of divalent salt per gram of dry mass of micro-organism.
- 25 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the micro-organism is removed by filtration.
9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation broth is diluted with water before, simultaneously or after the addition of the divalent salt.
- 30 10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the fermentation broth is diluted with 100-500% (w/w) water.
11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the fermentation broth is diluted with 100-400% (w/w) water.
- 35 12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation broth is adjusted to a pH

between 6.5 and 14.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the fermentation broth is adjusted to a pH between 7.5 and 8.5.

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14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation broth is adjusted to a pH below 5.5 after which the high molecular contaminants are removed.

15. The method according to claim 1, wherein the fermentation broth is heated to a
10 temperature between 30°C and 60°C.

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein additionally one or more other flocculating agents are added to the fermentation broth.

15 17. The method according to claim 1, wherein additionally activated carbon is added to the fermentation broth.